by including primary agricultural commodities such as rubber, jute and coir, under the Agreement on Agriculture.

Decline in Agricultural Yield

2148. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per acre yield of major agricultural products in the country has declined recently, compared to that in the neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The productivity of important agriculture products such as paddy, wheat, repeseed and cotton in India has been generally increasing over the year. Although it is higher compared to that of countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran, Myanmar, Turkey in case of wheat, it is lower compared to that of some other countries like Japan and China. The crop-wise details of productivity in respect of some of neighbouring countries are given in the Statement I to IV (*See* below).

The productivity depends on a number of factors such as conditions of soil, facilities of irrigation, duration of the crop (gestation period between sowing and harvest), quality of seeds, timely application of quality inputs, managerial skills of farmers and availability of credit. Since these factors vary a great deal from region to region and country to country, so does the productivity.

Statement-I

Yield Rate of paddy in India and neighbouring Countries—1997 to 1999

(kg/hectare)

Country/Year	1997	1998	1999
World	3815	3811	3845
Bangladesh	2743	2837	2852
China	6311	6353	6321
India*	**2850**	**2882**	**2985**
Indonesia	4432	4197	4261
Iran	4173	4505	4182
Japan	6416	6219	6414
Myanmar	3064	3079	3128
Nepal	2368	2417	2450
Pakistan	2805	2893	2875
Turkey	5000	5283	5283

*Refers to agriculture year (*i.e* July-June) 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000

Statement-II

Yield Rate of wheat in India and neighbouring countries—1997 to 1999

(kg/hectare)

Country/Year	1997	1998	1999
World	2690	2628	2711
Bangladesh	2054	2240	2259
China	4102	3685	3969
India*	**2485**	**2590**	**2755**
Iran	1595	1935	1610
Japan	3639	3511	3454
Myanmar	894	1047	973

Country/Year	1997	1998	1999
Nepal	1588	1610	1695
Pakistan	2053	2238	2162
Turkey	1997	2234	2081

*Refers to agriculture year (*i.e* July-June) 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000

Statement-III

Yield Rate of rapeseed in India and neighbouring countries—1997 to 1999

(kg/hectare)

Country/Year	1997	1998	1999
World	1492	1383	1543
Bangladesh	742	738	738
China	1474	1272	1405
India*	**668**	**870**	**982**
Japan	1667	1667	1273
Pakistan	807	859	858

*Refers to agriculture year (*i.e* July-June) 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 in respect of Rapeseed & Mustard

Statement-IV

Yield Rate of cotton (lint) in India and neighbouring countries—1997 to 1999

(kg/hectare)

Country/Year	1997	1998	1999
World	561	535	550
China	1025	1009	1021
India*	**208**	**224**	**226**
Iran	555	616	616
Myanmar	181	181	190
Pakistan	528	510	510
Turkey	1152	1097	1097

Country/Year	1997	1998	1999
Syria	1462	1288	1260
Tajikistan	606	580	393

*Refers to agriculture year (*i.e* July-June) 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000

Import permits for primary farm products

2149. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit import of primary farm products on import permit only; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it would be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) For seeds and plants meant for propagation and sowing, provision for import permit in the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989 has already been there. However, the Government have issued a notification dated 1.5.2001 to make requirement of import permit mandatory for the import of plants and fruits for consumption also. However, cut-flower, garlands, bouquets, fruits and vegetables weighing less than two kilograms for personal consumption are exempt from import permit. The said Notification came into effect from 1.6.2001.

Mushroom Spawn Culture by 100% export oriented units and tissue culture materials of any plant origin and flower seeds continue to be imported without permit as provided in the notifications dated 16th July, 1993 and 11th October, 1993 respectively.